

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 12, 14-19, 21 and 22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 12 and 14-19 are amended Claims 3, 5, 10, 13 and 15 are cancelled and Claims 21 and 22 are added by the present response. Support for amendments to the claims can be found in the specification as originally filed, thus no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to as including informalities; Claims 7, 9 and 19 were objected to as including informalities; Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11-13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Riley et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,663,788, herein "Riley"); Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Riley in view of Bohrer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,106,569, herein "Bohrer"); and Claims 7-10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Riley in view of Okumura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,178,424, herein "Okumura");.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended to correct the informalities identified in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to Claims 7, 9 and 19, these claims have been amended to correct the informalities identified in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 7, 9 and 19 be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101, Claims 1-20 have been amended to recite statutory subject matter. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a database of industrial products," and to clearly define the typical property database

in which the typical property set is stored. Claim 11, has been similarly amend to clarify that the typical property set is stored in the typical property database. Additionally, Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include a display feature. For example, Claim 11 now recites, “displaying a plurality of typical properties in the typical property set on a screen in a display order, the display order being inherited by the second classification together with the typical property set.” Thus a tangible result is now produced by the claimed invention. For instance, in Figure 11 when a user clicks the “Typical” button the typical property set stored in the typical property database is displayed with checkmarks next to the elements of the set.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20 which include a setting unit for setting a typical property set and a display for displaying the typical property set is functional material. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-20 under §101 be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-20 under §112, second paragraph, Claims 1-20 have been amended to correct the issues in the claims as identified in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-20 under §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11-13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Riley, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

a setting unit configured to set a typical property set including at least one property of a first classification of the industrial products as a typical property that represents the first classification, and extrinsic information that includes a query condition for the typical property, wherein the first typical property set is inherited by a second classification lower than the first classification;

Claim 11 recites analogous features.

Riley discloses generic information and significant properties which correspond to the classification and the property of the classification.

However, Riley does not teach or suggest “a setting unit configured to set a typical property set including at least one property of a first classification of the industrial products as a typical property that represents the first classification, and extrinsic information that includes a query condition for the typical property, wherein the first typical property set is inherited by a second classification lower than the first classification,” as is recited in Claim 1.

In other words, Riley clearly does not describe the categorization of properties by creating a typical property set which includes properties of the first classification of the industrial products as typical properties that represent the first classification. Further, Riley does not describe or suggest setting extrinsic information that includes a query condition for the typical property.

Further none of the other cited Bohrer or Okumura references cures the above noted deficiencies of Riley at least with regard to setting extrinsic information that includes a query condition for the typical property.

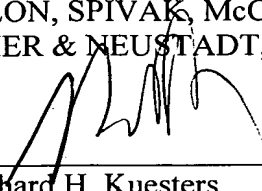
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 11 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Riley.

Moreover with respect to dependent Claims 4, 7-10, 14 and 17-20, in light of the claims dependency from Claims 1 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 7-10, 14 and 17-20 patentably distinguish over Riley, Bohrer and Okumura considered individually or in any proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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